

## Message Text

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71

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 /031 W  
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R 250400Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9168

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 3370

NEA/ARP PLEASE PASS TO WORLD AIRWAYS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJECT: SAUDI/YEMENI COMMERCIAL AIR COOPERATION

1. DURING SEPTEMBER 21 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ABDALLAH AL-ASNAYI RAISED MATTER OF CURRENT STATUS OF YEMENI AIRWAYS MANAGEMENT CONTRACT. AL-ASNAYI REPLIED THAT AS OF NOW THE BALL IS IN SAUDI COURT INASMUCH AS THEY WILL BE "FOOTING THE BILLS". AL-ASNAYI CONTINUED THAT YEMENI SIDE HAS DECIDED NOT TO MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SAUDIS CONCERNING FOREIGN COMPANIES WHICH MIGHT TAKE ON THE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT LEST THE SAUDIS GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THE YEMENIS ARE IN COLLUSION WITH A PARTICULAR COMPANY WITH THE PURPOSE OF "DIVIDING THE COMMISSION". AL-ASNAYI CONTINUED THAT THE BEST THING WOULD BE FOR ANY PARTICULAR COMPANY INTERESTED IN TAKING ON THE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT OF THE YEMENI AIRWAYS TO APPROACH THE SAUDI SIDE DIRECTLY AND MAKE ITS PROPOSAL.

2. AL-ASNAYI ADDED THAT THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT IS EXTREMELY SATISFIED WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF WORLD AIRWAYS AND THAT SHOULD WORLD AIRWAYS BE ON ANY LIST WHICH THE SAUDIS WOULD SUBMIT TO THE YEMENIS FOR APPROVAL, THE YEMENIS WOULD, OF COURSE, CHOOSE WORLD AIRWAYS BASED ON PAST PERFORMANCE AS WELL AS CONFIDENTIAL

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CURRENT PRESENCE IN YEMEN. IN THIS REGARD AL-ASNAYI

NOTED THAT YARG IS AWARE THAT WORLD AIRWAYS IS ALREADY DOING MORE THAN HAS BEEN CALLED FOR UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CURRENT WET LEASE CONTRACT AND THE YEMENIS ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE INITIATIVE BEING DISPLAYED BY WORLD AIRWAYS.

3. AL-ASNAJ RECOMMENDED THAT ANY COMPANY INTERESTED IN TAKING ON THE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT FOR YEMENI AIRWAYS DEAL DIRECTLY WITH HAKIM RIDA, THE COMMERCIAL MANAGER OF SAUDI AIRWAYS. WHO IS THE MAN AT THE WORKING LEVEL CHARGED WITH WORKING OUT THE DETAILS OF ANY SAUDI/YEMENI COOPERATION IN COMMERCIAL AIR MATTERS. AL-ASNAJ CONTINUED THAT RIDA REPORTS TO SUCH IMPORTANT PEOPLE AS PRINCE SULTAN WHO MAY WELL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION AS TO WHAT EVENTUALLY WILL BE DONE IN THIS AREA. AL-ASNAJ CONCLUDED BY URGING THAT ANY COMPANY WISHING TO APPROACH SAUDIS DO SO IN THE NEAR FUTURE.  
SCOTES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, AIRLINES, CONTRACTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SANA03370  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760365-1283  
**From:** SANA  
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**Line Count:** 80  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**  

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAUDI/YEMENI COMMERCIAL AIR COOPERATION  
**TAGS:** EAIR, YE, SA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006